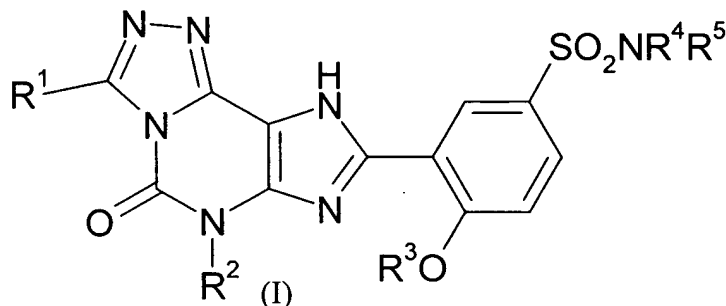


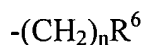
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented): A compound of formula (I):



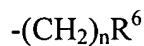
wherein:

R¹ represents hydrogen, a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or a group of formula



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2 and R⁶ represents phenyl, pyridyl or morpholinyl;

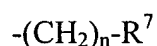
R² and R³ independently represent a C₁-C₅ alkyl group, a C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyl group, or a group of formula



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2 and R⁶ represents an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or pyridyl group; either R⁴ and R⁵ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 7-membered ring comprising a total of from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, which ring may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or hydroxy, oxoalkyl, carbamoyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkoxy carbonyl, trifluoroacetyl, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino groups or an alkylene group, or one or more alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups which may in turn be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxyalkoxy, amino or mono- or di-alkylamino groups, or

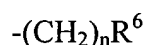
R⁴ and R⁵ independently represent hydrogen, an amidino group or an alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino groups, or

R⁴ represents hydrogen or an alkyl group and R⁵ represents a group of formula



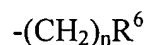
wherein n is an integer from 0 to 4 and R⁷ represents: a cycloalkyl group which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or alkyl, hydroxy, alkylendioxy, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, alkylamido, nitro, cyano or trifluoromethyl groups; a phenyl group which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or alkyl, hydroxy, alkylendioxy, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, nitro, cyano or trifluoromethyl groups; or a 3 to 7-membered ring comprising from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, which ring may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or hydroxy, alkoxy, phenyl, alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino or hydroxycarbonyl groups or one or more alkyl groups which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxyalkoxy, phenyl, alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino or hydroxycarbonyl groups; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2 (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ represents hydrogen, a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or a group of formula



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2 and R⁶ represents phenyl, pyridyl or morpholinyl.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R² and R³ independently represent a C₁-C₅ alkyl group, a C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyl group, or a group of formula



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2 and R⁶ represents an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or pyridyl group.

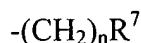
Claim 4 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is hydrogen or a methyl, ethyl, propyl, pyridyl, pyridylmethyl, benzyl or N-morpholinylmethyl group; R² is an ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, n-pentyl, methoxyethyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzyl or 3-pyridylmethyl group; and R³ is an ethyl, propyl or n-butyl group.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 wherein the ring formed by R⁴, R⁵ and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached is a piperidyl, piperazinyl, [1,4]diazepan-1-yl, morpholinyl, pyrazolyl, or azetidinyll[,] ~~or diazabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl~~ group which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more groups selected from a C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, carbamoyl, amino, di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, (2-hydroxyethyl)methylamino, hydroxyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethanoyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, formyl and hydroxyalkyl groups, alkoxyalkyl groups and hydroxyalkoxyalkyl groups wherein the alkyl moieties contain from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent a 4-hydroxypiperidyl, 4-carbamoylpiperidyl, 3-carbamoylpiperidyl, piperazinyl, 4-methylpiperazinyl, 4-ethylpiperazinyl, 4-formylpiperazinyl, [1,4]-diazepan-1-yl, 4-methyl-[1,4]-diazepan-1-yl, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazinyl, 4-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl]piperazinyl, morpholinyl, aminopyrazolyl, diazabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl, 5-methyldiazabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl, 5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-diazabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl, 3(S)-methylpiperazinyl, 3(R)-methylpiperazinyl, (3R,5S)-3,5-dimethylpiperazinyl, (2R,5S)-2,5-dimethylpiperazinyl, (2S,5R)-2,5-dimethylpiperazinyl, 3-dimethylaminoazetidinyll, 3-dimethylaminomethylazetidinyll, 4-allylpiperazinyl, 4-propylpiperazinyl, (3R,5S)-3,4,5-trimethylpiperazinyl, 4-(2-methoxyethyl)-piperazinyl, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)[1,4]diazepan-1-yl, 4-(2-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)piperazinyl, 4-(2-hydroxy-1,1-dimethylethyl)piperazinyl, 4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-piperazinyl, 4-(3-hydroxypropyl)piperazinyl, 4-(isopropyl)piperazinyl, 4-(2-ethoxyethyl)piperazinyl, 4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethanoyl)piperazinyl, 3-hydroxyazetidinyll, 3-(2-hydroxyethyl)methylaminoazetidinyll or 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperidyl group.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ independently represent hydrogen, a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by a hydroxy or dimethyl amino group, a propynyl group or an amidino group.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group and R⁵ represents a group of formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and R⁷ is a pyridyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1-ethylaminocyclohex-1-yl, 1-diethylaminocyclohex-1-yl, 1-ethylaminocyclohept-1-yl, 1-diethylaminocyclohept-1-yl, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidin-4-yl, imidazolyl, 1-methylpiperid-4-yl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperid-4-yl, 4-hydroxypiperid-4-yl, 1-acetamidocyclohept-1-yl, 1-methyl-3-azetidinyl or 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl group.

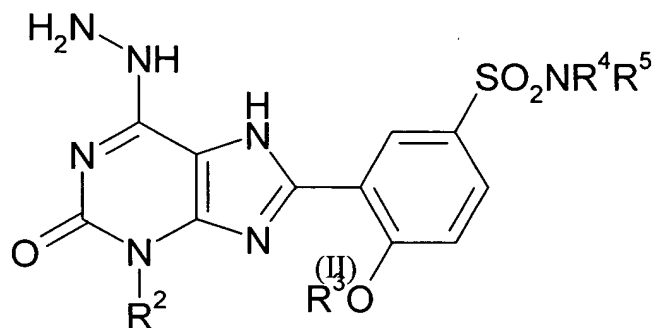
Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 which is

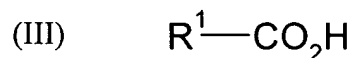
6-ethyl-8-[5-(4-methylpiperazine-1-sulphonyl)-2-propoxyphenyl]-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
8-[2-butoxy-5-(4-methylpiperazine-1-sulfonyl)phenyl]-6-ethyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
8-[5-(4-methylpiperazine-1-sulfonyl)-2-propoxyphenyl]-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
8-{5-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine-1-sulphonyl]-2-propoxyphenyl}-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
8-[5-(4-methyl-[1,4]diazepane-1-sulfonyl)-2-propoxyphenyl]-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
6-butyl-8-{5-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine-1-sulfonyl]-2-propoxyphenyl}-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
3-(5-oxo-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-5H-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-8-yl)-4-propoxy-*N*-pyridin-4-ylbenzenesulphonamide;
8-[5-((*S*)-3-Methylpiperazine-1-sulfonyl)-2-propoxyphenyl]-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,

8-[5-((1*S*,4*S*)-5-Methyl-2,5-diazabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-sulfonyl)-2-propoxyphenyl]-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4] triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
 8-[5-(3-Dimethylaminomethylazetidine-1-sulfonyl)-2-propoxyphenyl]-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*] purin-5-one,
 8-[5-((3*R*,5*S*)-3,5-Dimethylpiperazine-1-sulfonyl)-2-propoxyphenyl]-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*] purin-5-one,
N-(3-Dimethylamino-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-3-(oxopropyl-6,9-dihydro-5*H*-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-8-yl)-4-propoxy benzenesulfonamide,
 8-{5-[4-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-[1,4]diazepane-1-sulfonyl]-2-propoxyphenyl}-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*] purin-5-one,
 8-{5-[4-(2-Hydroxy-1,1-dimethylethyl)piperazine-1-sulfonyl]-2-propoxyphenyl}-6-propyl-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one,
 6-Butyl-8-{5-[4-(2-hydroxy-1,1-dimethylethyl)piperazine-1-sulfonyl]-2-propoxyphenyl}-6,9-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-*i*]purin-5-one
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A process for preparing a compound as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reacting a hydrazinopurine derivative of formula (II)



wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1, with a carboxylic acid of the general formula (III):



wherein R^1 is as defined in claim 1, or a reactive derivative thereof optionally in the presence of a polar aprotic solvent.

Claim 12 (Original): A process according to claim 11 wherein said reaction is carried out in the presence of an organic base.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

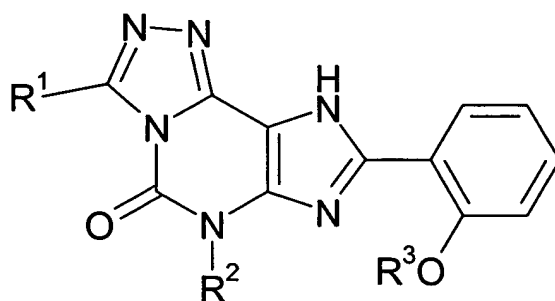
Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (cancelled)

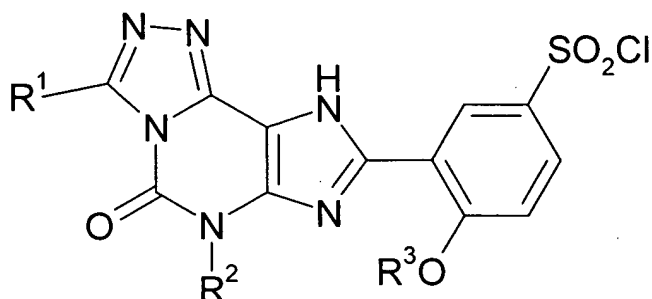
Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A process for preparing a compound as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reacting a phenylxanthine of formula (IX):



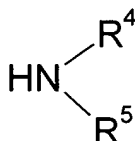
(IX)

wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in claim 1, with chlorosulphonic acid so as to obtain the sulphonyl chloride of formula (X):



(X)

wherein R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1, and reacting the sulphonyl chloride of formula (X) with an amine of formula (VIII):



(VIII)

wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined in claim 1.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A process according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 18 wherein the reaction forming the sulphonyl chloride of formula (X) is carried using an excess of the chlorosulphonic acid or using the chlorosulphonic acid as a solvent, and the conversion of the sulphonyl chloride of formula (X) is carried out in a polar aprotic solvent and in the presence of an organic base.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient, at least one compound as defined in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 21-22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method of treating a human or animal patient suffering from stable, unstable or variant angina, hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, conditions of reduced blood vessel patency, bronchitis, chronic asthma, allergic asthma, allergic rhinitis, glaucoma, male erectile dysfunction or female sexual dysfunction which method comprises administering to said patient requiring such treatment an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1.